

Camp near Fairfax Va October 29th 1862

My Dear Dear Mother

It is with the greatest pleasure that I take my pen to write this morning and I thought that you would like to have it directed to you We are in the same place yet but expect to move a little in a day or so I have had some of the experience of the soldier by this time and am in possession of all the letters I think that have been written although I have not been the lucky one to get a letter for a day or two back

My Dear Mother you do not know how much good it does me to read a letter from home you do not know with what eagerness I listen to the names as they are read hoping that every mail will bring news from some one to me from home and you never can know how much good it did me to get that first letter that you wrote and in every letter I hope to find even but a little scrip that is written in your handwriting I continue to enjoy good health and spirits and hope to continue to keep well and out of the Doctors hands. I am still in the Drum corps but I have taken a fife and that will not be much if any harder to play and certainly not any heavier to carry than a Drum our Drums have come through but we have not got our side arms yet I had quite a lot of "Mothers" cakes to put in my havresack when I started from camp Brown and they tasted real good I assure you Oct 30 Yesterday I had to close my letter and tear up tent and move about a mile or so and that spoiled my writing for that day that so that I spoke of that we were expecting to make I have recieved a letter from Katie and Ella and you may tell them for me that it was a pleasure indeed for me to recieve one from them You say in your letter that you pray for me God Bless You my dear Mother that is one of the greatest Blessings that I ever enjoyed or ever had was a praying Mother and I believe your prayers are answered for I feel that I am under the protection of (our heavenly father) and that he will bring me back again to my home I Believe if we only ask him aright and I feel that I can trust in him we are expecting Better tents in a day or two and that will be a great help in keeping us from the storm

I have that letter before me that Frank wrote and respecting the Draft I would say that it would be all right in some instances if they are not permitted to get substitutes

Tell Stella that I read her letter with Leroy's and I was real glad to hear from them and it does me a great deal of good to hear from you all to day I am well with the exception of some Dioraeh but that is a very common thing in camp But if you will send me the Hydropathic system of treating it it may be acceptable to others besides myself The other day while on Battalion Drill who should I see but Wm. (alias) Peter Ogle and he looked fat and stout and the other night I had the pleasure of seeing Capt Corregan and Qr Master E. A. Skinner and they were both well Butter here sells for 30c & 40c pr lb cheese 20c Potatoes 4c Apples about 2 or 3 for 5c apiece the place where we are now there are quite a lot of chestnut trees and this morning one of the boys climbed one of the trees and we got quite a lot (I among the number) I would like first rate if I could get home just

*[October 29, 1862 continued]*

long enough to see the folks and get some of those nice peaches and pears and apples But you know that it cant be now But I hope to see this war closed up By next summer and this morning I heard that Gov Morgan has said that if there was not some active measures taken soon for the prosecution of the war and the restoration of the Union he would recall all the NY troops into their own state and I begin to think that the war must change for Better or for worse in 2 months time as things are progressing at present Gen Sigel I have found out for certain now he is the man that he said he was and he has got about as much whiskers as Jno Williams but an Eagle Eye and the man that I told Ella was Sigel was a Brigadier and Sigel has got lots of Dutchmen in his command will you please send me the Westfield Rep as often as you get it after it is read and that will be some thing for me to read and when you write send me some stamps 6 or 8 now and a stamp or two extra when you write I buy a few apples now and then but I get them where I can buy cheapest and I spend as little as I can get along with some of the Boys have spent I heard 30 or 40 dollars but I have not spent hardly one yet and the plain living I get in camp I consider good enough for me I get my rations regular now and we have pork Beef rice Bread Hard tacks (alias) (Iron Bound crackers) or Pilot Bread and I forgot to say that Eggs were about 30 cents a doz here but you may depend upon it that these prices do not Bother me much

Our Boys have to do picket duty now and rabbits and squirrels seem to be quite plenty where they have gone but they dare not shoot for fear of a court Martial Last Sunday morning it began to rain and wind began to blow and we had a day and a half of Dreary wet weather but I got along well enough and to day is very pleasant and I think that we shall like our new situation better than the old one That fruit that you gave me I have kept But I have eaten up the currants and tasted of the cherries and Plumbs and they are so good Because Mother fixed them for me I often think of home and wish I were there but I pray that Peace may be restored right speedily so that I may see your faces again and I believe that the effectual fervent prayers of the righteous avail much with God I enjoy reading my Bible a great deal and I have it always with me I have not touched a razor to my face since I left home and you can imagine how I look